

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 OTPE-00

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R 091216Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1670

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2536

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, XM, XL, XK, UY

SUBJ: UNESCO CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES,
SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA; JULY 12-21, 1976

REF: (A) STATE 153675, (B) MONTEVIDEO 2476

1. THE URUGUAYAN DELEGATION TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE WILL BE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR AURELIANO AGUIRRE, CHIEF, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND A WRITER FOR EL PAIS, A MAJOR DAILY OWNED IN PART BY THE AGUIRRE FAMILY. AGUIRRE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LT. COL. ALEJANDRO MEDINA OF THE INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE JOINT STAFF.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REFTTEL WITH AGUIRRE JULY 8, EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO MEETING AND TO FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. HE (EMBOFF) EXPRESSED HOPE GOU WOULD CONTINUE ITS TRADITIONAL POSTURE TOWARDS MEDIA FREEDOM DESPITE PRESENT RESTRICTIONS IN WHAT HE TERMED (AND AGUIRRE AGREED) A TRANSITORY PERIOD IN
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URUGUAYAN DEVELOPMENT. AGUIRRE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR PO-

SITION CLEARLY BUT COMMITTED HIMSELF IN ONLY ONE RESPECT--
TO OPPOSE GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF THE MEDIA. GENERALLY, THE
AMBASSADOR, ADDED, HE BELIEVED MOST COUNTRIES IN THE AREA
FAVORED SOME CONTROLS BUT NOT OWNERSHIP. HOWEVER, HE PRO-
FESSED THAT HE HAD NO IDEA AS TO THE POSITION ENGLISH-
SPEAKING CARIBBEAN STATES MIGHT TAKE.

COMMENT: AGUIRRE WILL BE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION IN SAN
JOSE. HE IS AN EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT AND NEWSPAPERMAN SYMPATHETIC
TO OUR POSITION, BUT HE WILL HAVE A MILITARY MAN LOOKING
OVER HIS SHOULDER, A MILITARY MAN WHOSE OFFICE EXERTS
DIRECT INFLUENCE ON THE URUGUAYAN MEDIA. WE DO NOT KNOW
MEDINA OR WHETHER HE MIGHT, AS WE BELIEVE AGUIRRE CAN,
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN URUGUAY'S PRESENT SITUATION AND THIS
PEOPLE'S LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND DESIRES. IN HIS PRE-
SENTATION TO AGUIRRE THE EMBOFF PLAYED UP THE CONTROLS
DESIRED BY THE COMMUNIST STATES AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED
NATIONS (WITH WHOM URUGUAY FEELS LITTLE AFFINITY). IT IS
HOPED THAT AGUIRRE CAN USE THIS GAMBIT TO HELP COVINCE
HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUE TO OPPOSE CONTROLS.
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